NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

SUMMARY: The Natural Resource Trustees (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the State of Hawaii) announce the release for public review of a Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment ("Plan") for the restoration of natural resources injured as a result of the August 24, 1998 Tesoro Hawaii oil spill. The Natural Resource Trustees and Tesoro Hawaii conducted a cooperative damage assessment under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Act), 33 USC Sec. 2701 et seq., 15 CFR Part 900. The draft Plan describes the affected environment, the injury assessment process, and the preferred alternatives to restore, replace, rehabilitate, or acquire the equivalent pathral resources and/or services injured or potentially injured as a result of the oil spill. The natural resources potentially affected by the oiling include several species of scabirds, Hawailan monk seals, biota (e.g., opilei) in the intertid-al and subtidal habitats, and lummin use services (heaches and recreational and subsistence activities). The preferred restoration alternatives in the draft Plan include not removal activities, predator control activities in Newell's shearwater colonies and in the Hawali Seabird Sanctuary, extension of the predator sence at the Kilanes Point National Wildlife Refuge on Kanai, and contributing to a beach debris fund to clean recreational beaches in the areas impacted by the spill Final selection of the restoration projects will occur after review of the public comments and a final evaluation by the Trastees.

MEETINGS: The Trusteen have scheduled a public meeting on the Draft RP/EA on June 21, 2000, 6:00pm-8:00pm, at the Kapaa Public Library, 1664 Kuhio Highway, Kapaa, Kauai, HL

COMMENT DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 10, 2000.

ACTION REQUESTED: Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the brait Plan. Written comments will be considered and addressed in the final Restoration Plan at the conclusion of the restoration planning process.

CONTACT PERSON: Written comments and requests for copies of the Draft Plan may be made to: NOAA, GCNR/NW, 7800 Sand Point Way NE. Sant: 11e. WA 98115-0070 Atti: Gail Siani. The Plan is also available for download at http://www.darcnw.noaa.gov/tesoro.htm. For further information conlact: Gail Siani at the address above, call at 206.526.4566, or EMAIL: Gail. E. Siani@noaa.gov.

(Hon. Adv.: June 7, 2000)

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(June 7, 2000)